

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 COA-02 EB-11 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 271144Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9669

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T RABAT 3443

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SP AG

SUBJ: KING HASSAN SPEAKS FRANKLY DURING TRIPARTITE SUMMIT  
ON SPANISH SAHARA

1. SUMMARY: KING HASSAN TOLD PRESIDENTS BOUMEDIENE AND  
OULD DADDAH THAT MOROCCO COULD NOT TOLERATE INDEPENDENT  
SAHARAN STATE OR ONE UNDER ALGERIAN CONTROL; WOULD GO TO  
WAR TO PREVENT AND WOULD PREFER CONTINUATION OF SPANISH  
CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN BENHIMA ON ANOTHER SUBJECT  
JULY 26 I ASKED HOW THINGS HAD GONE AT JULY 23-24 AGADIR  
SUMMIT BETWEEN MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA ON SUBJECT  
OF SPANISH SAHARA.

3. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND BENHIMA RECALLED THAT ALGERIA  
HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN MOROCCO TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAD  
NO CLAIMS ON SPANISH SAHARA. IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS,

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MOROCCO HAD CONCLUDED BORDER AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA IN

WHICH MOROCCO MADE MOST OF THE SACRIFICES. DURING LAST UNGA, HOWEVER, BOTH ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA HAD REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE MOROCCO'S PRIMARY INTEREST IN SAHARA AND HAD ASSERTED THEIR OWN. AT MOST RECENT NOUAKCHOTT MEETING BENHIMA HAD FRANKLY STATED MOROCCO'S CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY AND HAD FORCED BOUTEFLIKA TO ADMIT THAT ALGERIA ASSERTED AN INTEREST IN THE RESOURCES OF SAHARA; BOUTEFLIKA SAID ALGERIA SOUGHT A WINDOW ON THE ATLANTIC. WHEN BENHIMA RETURNED FROM NOUAKCHOTT HE HAD TOLD KING THAT NEW SITUATION EXISTED OBVIOUSLY REQUIRING TOTAL REVISION OF MOROCCAN POLICY.

4. AT AGADIR KING HAD SPOKEN VERY FRANKLY. HE REPROACHED BOUMEDIENE FOR MAKING CLAIMS ON SAHARA AFTER MOROCCO HAD MADE SACRIFICES IN BORDER ACCORD; HE SAID THAT IF ALGERIA ENVISAGED CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT SAHARAN STATE, IT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FIRST NATIONS TO RECOGNIZE SUCH STATE AND ESTABLISH PRESENCE THERE WOULD NOT BE GREAT POWERS BUT SMALL COMMUNIST NATIONS LIKE ALBANIA, NORTH VIET-NAM, HUNGARY, NORTH KOREA, ETC. MOROCCO, KING SAID, COULD NOT TOLERATE EXISTENCE OF COMMUNIST-AFFILIATED STATE ON ITS SOUTHERN BORDERS; IT ALSO COULD NOT TOLERATE ALGERIAN-CONTROLLED SAHARAN STATE, AND IF THIS WAS WHAT ALGERIA HAD IN MIND, KING WOULD STOP HIS POLICY OF DAM BUILDING, BEEF UP HIS ARMED FORCES, AND GO TO WAR.

5. BENHIMA SAID BOUMEDIENE PROPOSED THAT ALL THREE COUNTRIES SPONSOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH WOULD COLLABORATE TO PUSH SPANIARDS OUT OF SAHARA. KING SAID HE WOULD PREFER SEE SPANIARDS REMAIN THAN TO HAVE INDEPENDENT OF ALGERIAN-CONTROLLED STATE SET UP. IF ALGERIANS WERE NOT CAREFUL, KING WOULD INITE ISTIQLAL AND UNFP TO FORM GOVERNMENT AND WOULD UNLEASH FORCES OF MOROCCAN NATIONALISM. WITH SUCH A GOVERNMENT, MOROCCAN RATIFICATION OF BORDER ACCORD WITH ALGERIA WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE AND MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN BORDER WOULD NOT REMAIN TRANQUIL.

6. BENHIMA SAID THAT CONDUCT OF OULD DADDAH AT AGADIR SHOWED THAT MAURITANIA WAS MERELY A PUPPET OF ALGERIAN. "HE DID NOT BABBLE A WORD WITHOUT GETTING THE NOD FROM BOUMEDIENE." IN FACE OF KING'S STRONG STATEMENTS BOTH  
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PRESIDENTS PROFESSED GOOD FAITH AND A DESIRE TO DO NO HARM TO MOROCCAN INTERESTS.

7. BENHIMA PROFESSED SEE PARALLEL BETWEEN ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO GAIN WINDOW ON ATLANTIC VIA MAURITANIA AND SAHARA AND ALLEGED FRENCH PLAN TO ISOLATE MOROCCO BY EXTENDING ALGERIAN INFLUENCE INTO MALI AND SENEGAL WHEN ALGERIA WAS PART OF FRANCE. HE SUGGESTED ALGERIANS HAVE NOW ADOPTED

THIS FRENCH STRATEGY.

8. BENHIMA CONCLUDED BY SAYING SPANIARDS BEING  
VERY  
UNHELPFUL. IF THEY THOUGHT EXISTENCE OF QUARREL BETWEEN  
MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA HELPED SPANISH POSITION,  
THEY WERE WRONG. CONTINUED REFUSAL OF SPANIARDS TO COOP-  
ERATE WITH MOROCCO WOULD ONLY MEAN THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY  
BE KEPT OUT OF BENEFITS THEY COULD OTHERWISE HAVE OBTAINED  
HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAD SO FAR REFUSED TO AGREE TO  
ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED MOROCCAN-SPANISH FISHING ENTERPRISE.  
RESULT WAS THAT MOROCCAN HAD GONE AHEAD WITH FRANCE, USSR  
AND JAPAN, AND IF SPAIN DID NOT WATCH OUT, IT WOULD BE  
EXCLUDED FROM A MEANINGFUL SHARE OF FISH RESOURCES IN  
MOROCCAN WATERS.  
ROCKWELL

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